

Agenda Item 9

Deer General Seasons

Deer Special Permits

Elk Special Permits



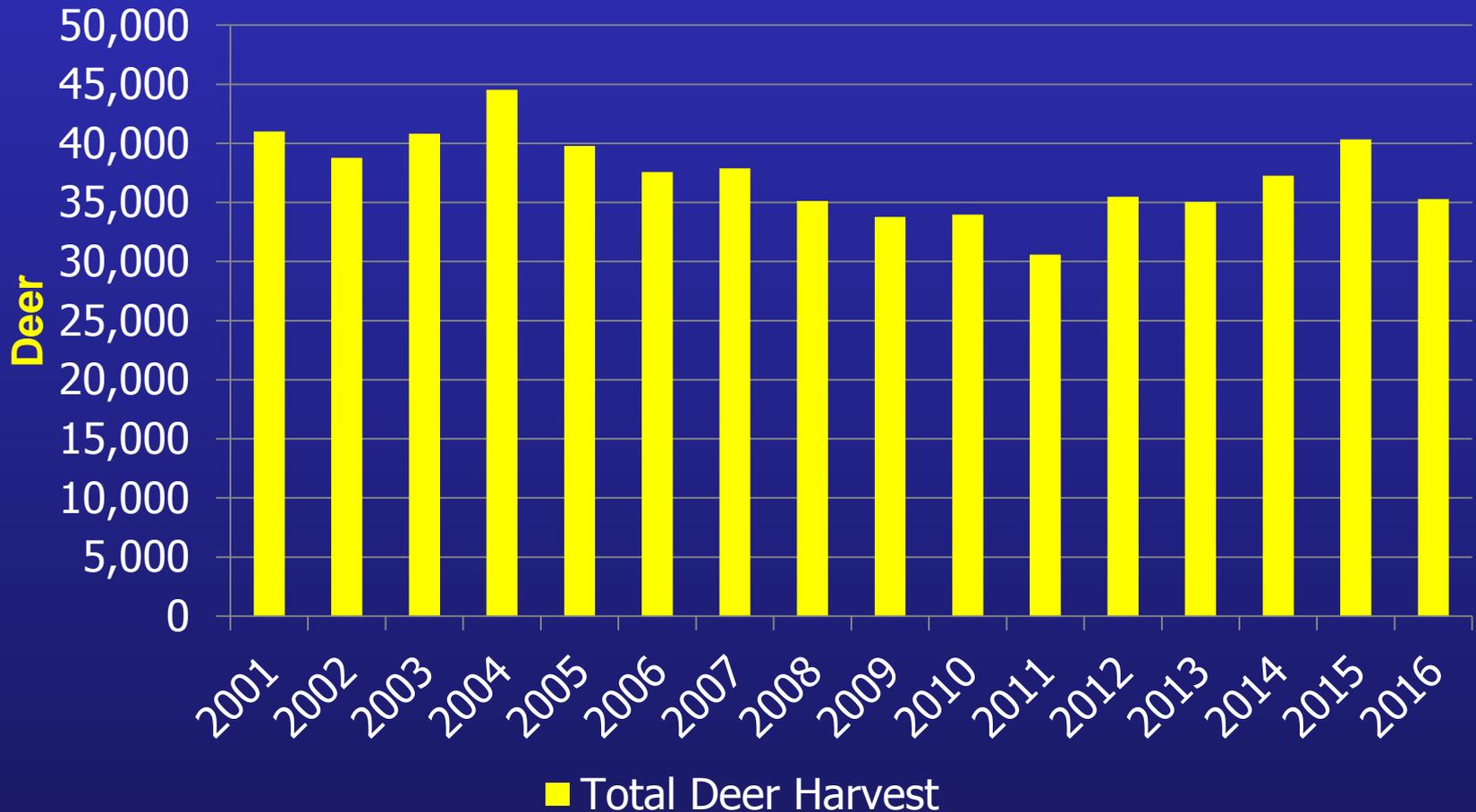
Washington Department of
FISH and WILDLIFE

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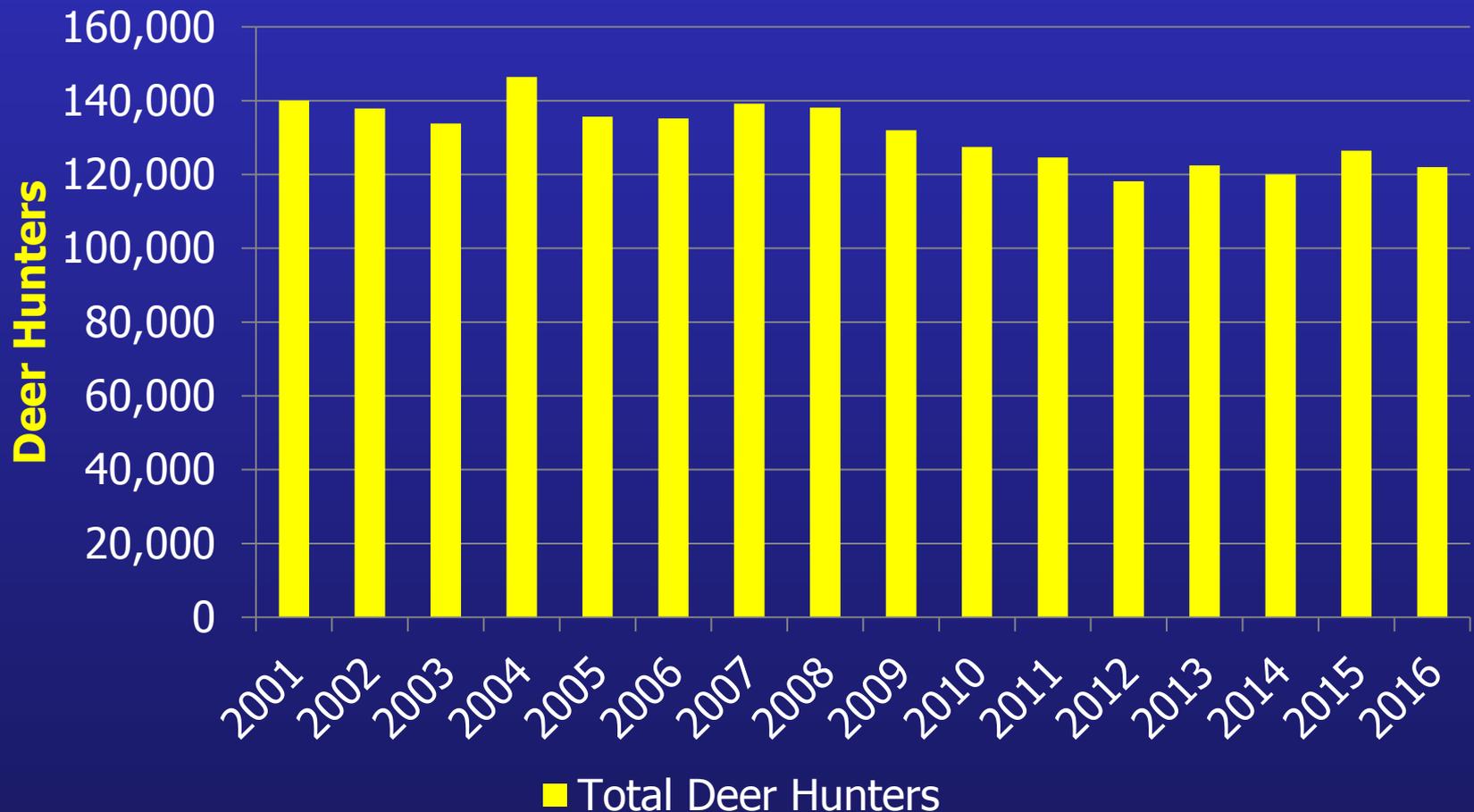
Deer Harvest 2001 to 2016

General Season and Special Permit Combined



Deer Hunters 2001 to 2016

General Season and Special Permit Combined



Deer General Seasons

WAC 232-28-357

- Third year of a 3-year package
- No major changes proposed
- Propose restoring the late archery season in GMUs 204 and 209 to the 2015 structure
- Propose exceptions to GMU 382 general season to accommodate special permit season in Deer Area 5382

Direction and Rationale

- Maintain conservative season structure when necessary
- Retain a hunting season framework that doesn't negatively impact deer populations
- Entertain ideas for major changes in the next 3-year package cycle 2018-2020

Questions on 232-28-357?



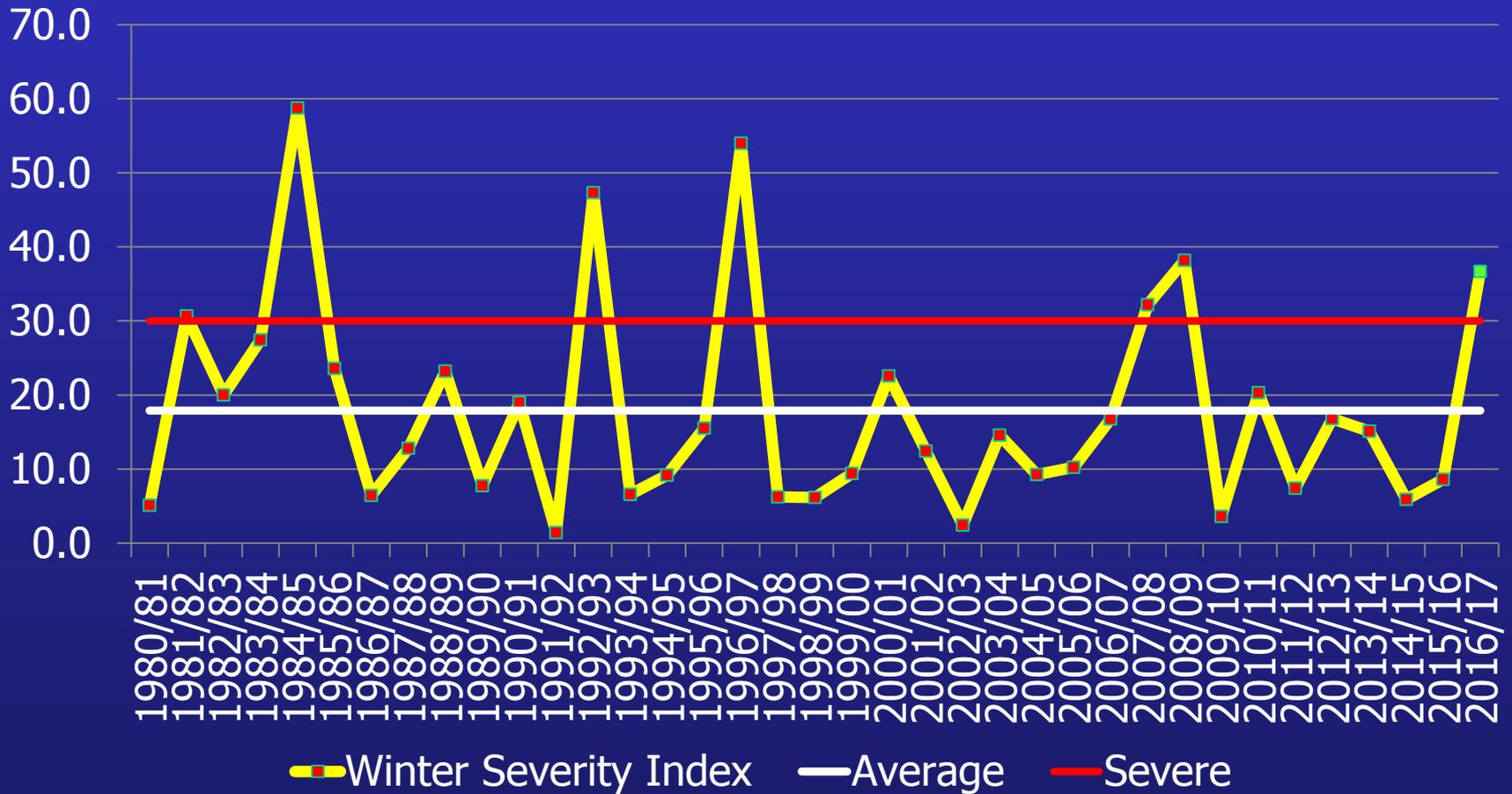
Winter Happens



Snow Depth is a Factor



Northeast Winter Severity Index



Status of Mule Deer Populations

Mule Deer Zone	Status	Hunting Seasons
Okanogan	Methow & Okanogan: Buck ratios at objective	Reduced antlerless special permits
Chelan	Surveys pending	Likely reduction in antlerless permits
Blue Mountains	Harvest	Status quo
Columbia Basin / Palouse	Aerial Survey 2015 Stable	Status quo
Douglas	Aerial surveys; Buck ratios at objective	Possible reduction in antlerless permits
Columbia Gorge	Aerial surveys; Buck ratios at objective	Status quo
East Slope Cascades	Surveys pending	Possible reduction in special permits

Status of White-tailed Deer Populations

White-tailed Deer Zone	Status	Hunting Season Recommendations
Selkirk	Harvest data average Fawn ratios down Buck ratios at objective	Status Quo
Palouse	Ground Survey Buck Ratios at Objective Fawn Ratios Average	Status Quo
Blue Mountains	Harvest Data	Status Quo
Columbia Basin	Limited Data for WTD	Status Quo
North Cascades	Limited Data for WTD	Status Quo
Okanogan Highlands	Ancillary Data	Restore late Archery in 204 and 209

Status of Black-tailed Deer Populations

Black-tailed Deer Zone	Status	Hunting Season Recommendations
Western Washington	Harvest Data	Status quo

Deer Special Permits

WAC 232-28-359

- Some late winter surveys still pending
- Antlerless special permits will likely be adjusted down
 - Okanogan
 - Chelan
 - Blue Mountains?
 - Douglas?
- Quality special permits will be adjusted through the special permit allocation process

Direction and Rationale

- Maintain conservative season structure when necessary
- Reduce antlerless opportunity when appropriate
- Retain a hunting season framework that doesn't negatively impact deer populations
- Entertain ideas for major changes in the next 3-year package cycle 2018-2020

Questions on WAC 232-28-359?

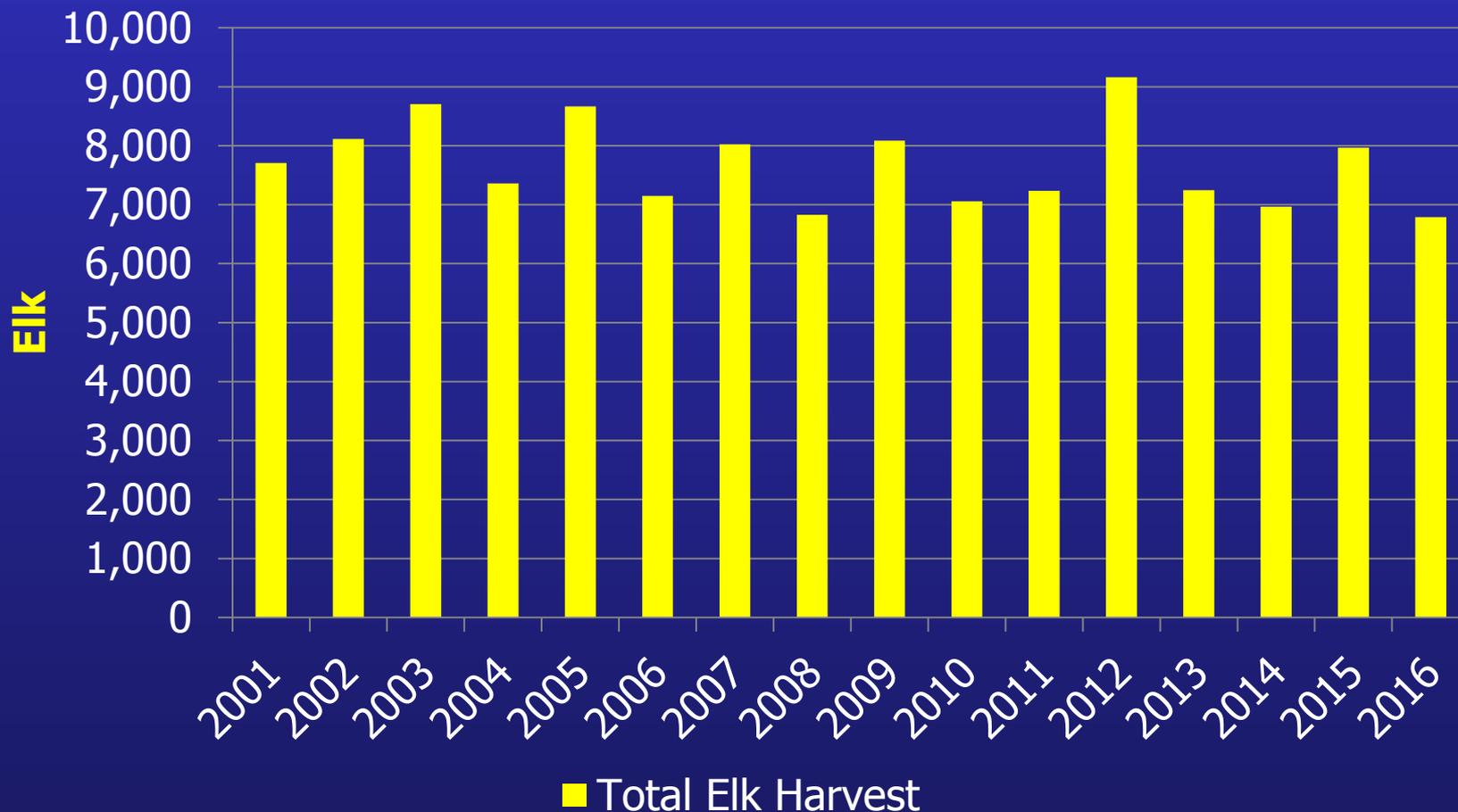


Elk



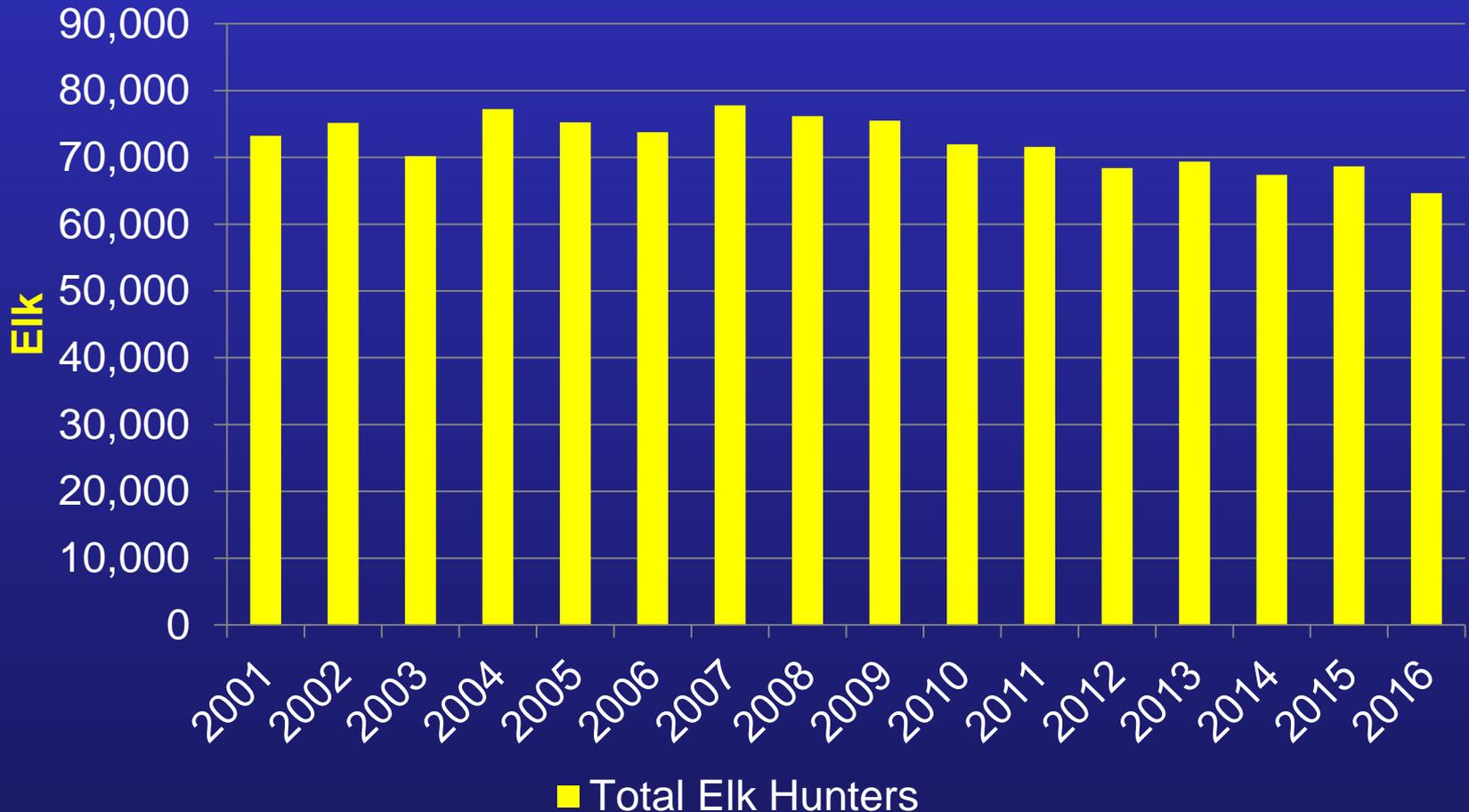
Elk Harvest 2001 to 2016

General Season and Special Permit Combined



Elk Hunters 2001 to 2016

General Season and Special Permit Combined



Elk Population Status

- Yakima herd follow up surveys pending
 - Below objective
 - Likely reduced antlerless special permits
- Colockum herd surveys pending
 - At objective
 - Likely reduced antlerless special permits
- Blue Mountains herd at objective
 - Minimal proposed changes

Status of Elk Populations

Elk Herd	Status	Hunting Season
Yakima	Below Objective Second survey pending	Slight ↑ ↓ for Bull Permits; Reduction in Antlerless Special Permits
Colockum	At Objective; Surveys Pending	Antlerless Special Permits Likely Reduced; Assessed After surveys
Blue Mountains	At Objective	Slight ↑ ↓ on Bull Permits
Mount St. Helens	At Objective for Core	Slight ↑ ↓ on Bull Permits
Nooksack	Survey Data Pending	Increase in Bull Special Permits
Olympic	Harvest Data	Status Quo
Willapa Hills	Survey Data Pending	Status Quo
Selkirk	Harvest Data	Status Quo
North Rainier	Harvest Data	Status Quo
South Rainier	Harvest Data	Status Quo

Elk Special Permits

WAC 232-28-360

- Yakima antlerless permits will be reduced based on 1st and pending 2nd surveys
- Colockum antlerless permits will be reduced based on pending surveys
- Quality and Bull permits adjusted using the special permit allocation formula

Direction and Rationale

- Maintain conservative season structure when necessary
- Reduce antlerless opportunity when appropriate
- Retain a hunting season framework that doesn't negatively impact elk populations
- Entertain ideas for major changes in the next 3-year package cycle 2018-2020

Questions on WAC 232-28-360?

